

# SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

## BULLETIN

VOL. 12, No. 5

NOVEMBER, 1943

### FEATHERS, FURS, AND FINS

On the evening of December 2nd at 8 P.M., St. Louis Bird Club members and friends will welcome W. F. Kubichek when he presents another of his outstanding films, "Feathers, Furs, and Fins", at Soldan High School. Mr. Kubichek is well remembered from his last appearance before the Bird Club when he drew tremendous applause for his spectacular shots of Western Grebes "walking" on the water and many another amazing wildlife sequence. This year's all-color motion picture by Mr. Kubichek, who comes to us from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Chicago, promises to be even more exciting and unusual. Together with the fascinating story of Sandhill Cranes in the Dakotas, Mr. Kubichek will show us Elk in the Grand Tetons, and some breath-taking scenes of mammoth Salmon runs on the Columbia River. Picturesque studies of majestic Bison on the range and Longhorns (an interesting and fast diminishing race of cattle) will be followed by intimate views of Raccoons, Herons, Hawks, Lark Buntings and California Gulls. And best news of all . . . Mr. Kubichek will bring us some new shots of the Western Grebe! Remember, this lecture is free and open to the public. We recommend it highly as good birding for December.

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This issue of the Bulletin shows eight new Sustaining members and two changed to Sustaining during the month of October. Remember that a Sustaining member of the St. Louis Bird Club is also a member of the National Audubon Society and receives the Audubon Magazine.

### 5,000 AT CHILDREN'S BIRD DAY

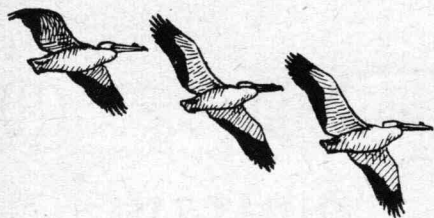
With 109 St. Louis Public Schools represented at the afternoon performance and quite a few more represented at the evening performance, it is quite apparent that the St. Louis Bird Club got across its constructive Halloween message to a good cross-section of the children of this city. Club members who

worked so diligently to make Children's Bird Day a success cannot be complimented too highly on the worthwhile results. Bert Harwell opened both programs with some of his outstanding bird imitations and commentaries on the whys and wherefores of bird songs. This was followed by his excellent film, "Bird Fun", colorfully illustrating some of the amusing antics of shorebirds, ducks, songbirds and mammals to the great delight of all ages in the audience. The "schoolmaster" who conducted the afternoon quiz of Gerard Darrow was Club member Bishop William Scarlett while Luther Ely Smith officiated



W. F. Kubichek

at the evening show. Of the ten questions asked Gerard, he failed to answer only one: "What class of ships is named after birds?", and we doubt very much if there were many among the 5,000 attending who could have handled that one. One other question, "Why do Ducks and Geese when migrating fly in a V?", was so controversial that Gerard was given credit for the correct answer and the boy submitting the question was given a dollar prize just as if he had stumped Gerard. All in all, Gerard's spontaneous answers and clever commentaries won the immediate admiration of the crowd. Five thousand children from 6 to 60 hail Gerard Darrow!



## ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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## THE BIRTH OF THE LAND

With conservation playing such an important role in our present day economy, we feel that John H. Storer's vivid all-color panorama of our land and the life it supports will be particularly timely. It will be presented to us on January 6th at 8 P.M. in the St. Louis University Auditorium. Mr. Storer has chosen a subject that is vitally interesting to everyone in these days when food and the reasons for its relative scarcity or abundance have been clearly brought home to all of us. The fundamental inter-relationship of soil, water, plants and wildlife, that we so often overlook is explained pictorially in this fascinating film. We will witness the eerie reflections of huge cypress trees on dark waters and see forest plants come up from the soil; flowers opening into majestic bloom; a polyphemus moth emerging from its cocoon; an osprey shown taking advantage of the abundance of nature by rising from a power dive into the water with a raticn-free fish in its talons. We cannot do full justice to Mr. Stoner's film in this brief preview so we urge you to come and see for yourselves.

## BEST BIRD BOOKS

We are listing these bird books which are among the best in the field for bird study:

Peterson's **A Field Guide to the Birds.** (\$2.75).

Peterson's **A Field Guide to Western Birds.** (\$2.75).

For learning to identify birds.

Bennitt's **Pocket List of Missouri Birds** (Obtainable for 10c by writing Dr. Rudolf Bennitt, 106 Wildlife Building, Columbia, Missouri.) For a list of what birds are found in Missouri.

Margaret McKenny's **Birds in the Garden** (\$5.00).

For winter feeding and attracting birds to your garden.

Pearson's **Birds of America.** (\$3.95).

For a detailed home reference on birds.

Roger Tory Peterson's **The Junior Book of Birds.** (\$2.00).

For children.

T. S. Roberts' **Bird Plates in Color** (\$3.50).

For excellent bird plates.

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These are the ten winning questions and answers used in the Gerard Darrow Bird Quiz: QUESTION: What is the only bird known to fly backward as well as forward? ANSWER: The Hummingbird. QUESTION: What bird has been known to travel as far as 11,000 miles to complete its migration? ANSWER: Arctic Tern. QUESTION: What American bird doesn't build its own nest but still lays eggs? ANSWER: The Cowbird. QUESTION: Which bird is famous for its curious habit of weaving a snake skin into its nest? ANSWER: Crested Flycatcher. QUESTION: What bird do the Chinese use to catch fish? ANSWER: Cormorant. QUESTION: Which bird can you see in St. Louis and approximately 50 miles around St. Louis that you can't see in any other city in the U.S.? ANSWER: European Tree Sparrow. QUESTION: What U.S. Navy ships are named after birds? ANSWER: Minesweepers. QUESTION: How can you attract birds to your garden or window sill during the winter? ANSWER: By feeding properly. QUESTION: How do you account for birds returning to the same nesting grounds year after year? ANSWER: Instinct. QUESTION: Why do ducks or geese when migrating fly in a V formation? ANSWER: Controversial.

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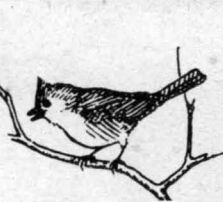
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# Observations



This year's Spring Census on May 9th was another record breaker with a grand total of 177 species observed within a fifty mile radius of St. Louis. In spite of the inclement weather there were over 100 participants made up of groups from the St. Louis Bird Club, Rockwoods Reservation, Grafton Nature League, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, The Principia, and Trail Rangers of Michael, Illinois. This year's total, which was larger by six species than that of last year, included thirteen varieties of sparrows, thirty-two kinds of warblers, fifteen species of shore birds, three kinds of owls, six varieties of woodpeckers, nine types of ducks, eight members of the flycatcher family, six types of swallows, five kinds of wrens and six species of vireos. Four Club members observed more than 100 species: Jimmy Jackson, 107, Mr. James Cunningham, 105, Father Link, 103, and Don Menke, 103. The day's best birds: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Pelican, Stilt Sandpiper and Sycamore Warbler.

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Ethel Wolfe, Club Secretary, reports that the Continental Building at Grand and Olive has been the scene of some very unusual bird activity for such a busy city section. Recently an exhausted Coot stopped off to rest near the window of the Todd Studios. Since it was unable to fly, the bird was taken to the penthouse of the Continental Building to rest up and will be released in a more natural habitat soon. Another item of interest was the nesting of a pair of Sparrow Hawks in the reflectors of the flood lights on top of the building. This spring the whole Sparrow Hawk family was frequently seen soaring over the roof of the Fox Theatre.

Approximately 50 people spent an enjoyable day at Rockwoods Reservation on Sunday, October 31st, when two Menaboni originals, the Tufted Titmouse and Bluebird, were presented to Rockwoods Reservation by the St. Louis Bird Club. The program was opened by Harold I. O'Byrne with a welcome to Rockwoods and the paintings were presented by Wayne Short on behalf of the Bird Club to Edward K. Love, member of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Miss Edith Long extended greetings of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and Dr. G. H. Klinkerfuss spoke on behalf of the Audubon Society of Missouri. Stuart O'Byrne next gave an interesting resume of the birds that have been seen at Rockwoods. The program closed with bird impressions by Bert Harwell. A bird walk was held at 8 A.M. and another after the two o'clock ceremonies. The best bird find of the day was a Pileated Woodpecker.

This resume of the Club-sponsored April Bird Walks in Forest Park should bring back fond memories of last spring's birding and perhaps uncover a few facts about the 1943 walks, which were the best we've ever had. A record attendance of 1,000 persons on the four walks proved the ever-increasing popularity of this fine Club activity. The total of 101 species observed for the four April Sundays topped last year's record of 98. And still another new record: 77 species observed in one day on the last Sunday of the month. A magnificent observation was that of the Red-breasted Merganser, first seen by Jimmy Jackson. And certainly we can't overlook a mention of our Kildeer's nest found in a Park flower bed and the resultant publicity which made the pair of birds one of the best known to nest in St. Louis in many a spring. Here are the birds observed during those four April walks right in the heart of St. Louis: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Eastern Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob White, Coot, Kildeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Migrating Shrike, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, Louisiana Water Thrush, English Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Mississippi Song Sparrow.





## Who's Who?



Bouquets to Helen Einspanier for her yeoman work in handling the tremendous volume of entries in the Gerard Darrow Quiz contest on Children's Bird Day. Hundreds of questions were submitted by St. Louis school children and Helen took care of all details without a slip-up. And hats off too to the committee of judges consisting of Club members Luther Ely Smith, John W. Thomsen, E. G. Cherbonnier, Lucien R. Fouke and Mrs. Hildegard H. Cunliff, who devoted hours of careful consideration to the questions before arriving at a final selection of the ten best stumpers.

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Here is a glimpse of the organization of the Contact Committee which has been doing such a splendid job: Linus Hoffmeister handles mailing of posters and bulletins; Catherine Wood, newspaper and radio contact; Mrs. Gertrude Drury, library contact; Delphia Mette, scrapbooks; Anne Bayha and Billie McCord, printing card announcements; Myron Northrop, prospect mailing list and organization contact; and as head and master mind of all the intricacies that go to make this bird club tick, Mildred Reese.

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Mr. Sterling P. Jones recently spent several weeks in New York City and attended the National Audubon Society's convention.

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The afternoon judges who determined whether Gerard answered his quiz questions correctly were: Bert Harwell, Wayne Short, Mrs. Joseph E. Vollmar, and Mrs. R. Fairfax Funsten. The evening judges were those plus Mrs. Edward J. Walsh.

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Paull, Club members from Alton, Illinois, have moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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Hattie Ettinger, Club member and secretary to Mr. Vierheller, and Palmer Baumes escorted Gerard Darrow, his aunt, Miss Elizabeth Darrow, and Wayne Short through the Zoo at Forest Park. Gerard and Wayne had a ride on Miss Jim, the elephant.

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Mrs. C. E. Peterson, member from Madison, Minnesota, reports the banding of 46 species and 340 individuals this past spring. She completed ten years of bird banding June 21, 1943 with 105 species and over 7,000 individuals banded during that period.

New Sustaining members since October 1st.: Orley Beck, William J. Bremser, Theresa Debatin, Henry V. Putzel, Anna M. Singer, Mrs. Helen Spanogle, W. W. Stroop, Edward D. Yule. Changed from Active to Sustaining: Eugenia Haagen, Hazel B. Philbrick.

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New Active members since October: Cordelia Ahrens, Laura Arbaugh, Emilie Becker, Mrs. Ernest E. Beeh, Mildred G. Byars, Martha W. Clark, Eugene H. Dising, Bess Goldstone, Mrs. Martha Hacker, Margaret Henley, Roland M. Hoerr, Inez Kimball, Eloise Koch, Edward J. Lebeau, Dorothy A. Long, Dr. A. O. Ludwig, Eulalie A. Mallery, Harry J. Martin, R. M. Odien, Mrs. B. E. Oppermann, L. F. Pinkus, Margaret Sabolewski, Fred C. Scheer, Sophie Schlothauer, Mabel Schuetz, Mrs. Iris Shirley, Avelina Soto, Violet M. Stanton, Charles E. Tremain, Oscar Vasterling, Bertha Vogler, Miss L. D. Walz, Leah V. White, Eugene Wilhelm.

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Miss Margaret Hill, Bird Club member, was married recently. Her new name and address. . . Mrs. Walter Self, 4324 Chippewa.

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The next bird group meeting of the Webster Groves Nature Society will be held on the evening of November 26th at the home of the H. B. Comforts, 27 N. Iola Drive. The speaker will be Mr. Ifrig who will give a duck hunter's-eye-view of birds in contrast to the bird's-eye-view of duck hunters to which we're more accustomed.

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These were the winners in the Gerard Darrow bird quiz contest. Although just 10 questions were asked Gerard, the following list of seventeen children includes those who sent in duplicate queries. A total of nineteen dollars was paid out in prizes . . . seventeen dollars for the selected questions, and one dollar each to the two children whose questions stumped Gerard: Immogene Angle, Roy Sapienza, Arlene Levine, Peter Carbone, Lee Leininger, Annette Roth, Rae Minton, Julia Sharkey, Frances Stokes, Willetta Stroh, James Arthur Peek, Richard Daigger, Milton Noelken, Gloria Jane Fay, Herbert Juerns Jr., Virginia Connors, Donald Herdt.

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Louis Soto, a well-liked Club member and former member of our Contact Committee, has joined the Navy.